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SECURITY INFORMATION

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## REPORT

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2. Forced Labor Camps

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## Military Information

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1. The following military units are located at Sliven:
  - a. The 11 Infantry Regiment;
  - b. The 6 Artillery Regiment;
  - c. An unidentified armored unit, equipped with medium tanks which are armored half-tracks with eight bogie wheels; the unit is actually quartered at Debela Koruya (sic) village seven kilometers south of Sliven; and
  - d. An unknown number of unidentified Trudovak units.
2. The following military units were located at Elkhovo:
  - a. An unidentified infantry regiment [redacted] was recently increased in size from a battalion to a regiment; and
  - b. An unknown number of unidentified Trudovak units.
3. The following military units were located at Yambol:
  - a. The 4 Cavalry Regiment;
  - b. An unidentified Infantry Regiment; and
  - c. An unknown number of unidentified Air Force units.

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4. As of the summer of 1951, Trudovak units were being sent to the Bulgarian-Turkish border area to construct bunkers and fortifications.

5. [ ] the following Trudovak personnel:

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- a. Colonel Mladenov, Commanding Officer of 3 Trudovak Section in 1947, now Commanding Officer of all Trudovak units in Sofia;
- b. Captain Foti Fotev, allegedly a Communist, on duty in Sliven in 1947, current assignment unknown;
- c. Captain Manolov, Commanding officer of a Trudovak battalion at Sliven in 1947;
- d. Second Lieutenant Penev, Commanding Officer of the Trudovak disciplinary company, Turnava village, Yambol district in 1947; in the summer of 1947, he was transferred to an unknown location; Penev is a Communist;
- e. Second Lieutenant Lachev, replaced Penev as Commanding Officer of the Trudovak company in Turnava village, later promoted to first lieutenant and transferred to Granitovo village, Elkhovo district, where he commanded an unidentified Trudovak unit which worked at the stone quarry; his present assignment is unknown;
- f. Second Lieutenant Kuchukov, Deputy Commander of 3 Trudovak Section in 1949; and
- g. Second Lieutenant Kolev, a Communist, Trudovak officer in Sliven in 1947.

#### Forced Labor Camps

6. The Bosna forced labor camp for women is one of the many camps in the Dobrudzha region. [ ]
7. The Rositsa, Bogdanov Dol, and Nikolayevq camps have been closed and their inmates have been transferred to Belene.<sup>1</sup>

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#### Belene Forced Labor Camp

8. As of September 1951, the Belene camp was composed of five units and had a total of approximately 5,000 inmates.<sup>2</sup> The units were numbered one to five. Unit 5 was located north of Belene village along the southern shore of the Danube River. Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 are located on Persin Island just opposite unit 5; all five units are in sight of Belene village. There are approximately 20,000 acres under cultivation by the Belene camp on Persin Island which is connected to the mainland with a pontoon bridge. Belene village (Levski railroad station) is connected with Svishtov and the Sofia-Pleven-Stalin railroad artery by a branch line.
9. The Belene camp is guarded by Militia units and the whole area is honeycombed with watch towers, some of which are equipped with machine guns. The entrance to the main camp on Persin Island is guarded at all times. The building closest to the Danube is the administration building; the dormitories for the guards are located in the immediate vicinity of the administration building.

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10. Unit 4 is located closest to the bridge and adjoins the administration building and the guard dormitories. The inmates of this unit, approximately 1,500, are generally former officers, policemen, government officials, and prominent political personalities. Some of the group are charged with the care and feeding of pigs while others, for the most part government officials of the World War II pro-Nazi government, work in the camp administration offices.
11. Unit 1 is two to three kilometers distant from unit 4 and contains approximately 1,200 men, only 400 of which are housed in the unit's dormitory; the remaining 800 sleep in the open. This unit engages in raising wheat, corn, sun-flowers, and other agricultural projects. The work day is 14 hours long, beginning at 4:30 a.m., with one hour off for a very bad lunch. All work units consist of 50 men under the leadership of a "trustee" who is generally one of the World War II government officials. Any inmate who does not complete his assigned quota for the day is turned over to the trustee at the end of the day; the prisoner is generally beaten and is not usually seen for a day or so.
12. Unit 3 has approximately 700-800 inmates who work in the vegetable gardens.
13. Unit 2 has the smallest memberships. The working conditions in this unit are very unfavorable, resulting in frequent deaths.
14. Unit 5, located on the mainland, has approximately 700-800 inmates who work in a brickyard.
15. A section of the camp known as "Tel-Aviv" serves as the camp's disciplinary enclosure. Those sent to "Tel-Aviv" for punishment receive a daily ration of 100 grams of bread and one glass of water from the Danube River.
16. As of August 1951, the following were inmates of the Belene camp:
  - a. Nikola Bakalov, a Sofia lawyer, member of the pre-1948 Agrarian Party;
  - b. Nino Chakerski, pre-1948 Agrarian Party member, a Deputy from Byala Slatina;
  - c. Mincho Drandarevski, from Stara Zagora;
  - d. Dimitur "Pop" Ignatov, pre-1948 Agrarian Party member from Stara Zagora;
  - e. Yordan Kovachev, pre-1948 Agrarian Party member, a Deputy from Plovdiv;
  - f. Spas Naydenov, from Sofia;
  - g. Petur Rusev Peychev, pre-1948 Agrarian Party member, a Deputy from Karnobat;
  - h. Kiril Popov, from Turgovishte;
  - i. Dimitur Serev, from Elkhovo;
  - j. Kiro Smokov, pre-1948 Agrarian Party member from Topolovgrad; and
  - k. Sergi Zlatanov, from Sofia.

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Government Officials

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- a. Yordan Cherpanliyev, member of the Agrarian Party, a supply official of the government construction company of Sliven;
- b. Boris Dobrev, member of the Agrarian Party, inspector of the Topolovgrad branch of the Government Insurance Administration;
- c. A certain Dzhelebov, a Communist, engineer, director of the government construction company of Sliven;
- d. Iliya Iliev, member of the Agrarian Party, an official of the engineering section of the Sliven district administration;
- e. Veselin Kisov, not a Communist, an engineer in the small Sofia electric power plant;
- f. A certain Kitov, a Communist, commander of the Belene forced labor camp;
- g. A certain Mindev, a Communist, commander of the Sliven prison;
- h. Todor Popov, a Communist, chief of the administration department of the government construction company; and
- i. Mikho Torlokov, a Communist, employed as a technician by the government construction company of Sliven.

1. Comment: For further information concerning forced labor camps in Bulgaria.

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2. Comment: For further information concerning the Belene concentration camp.

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